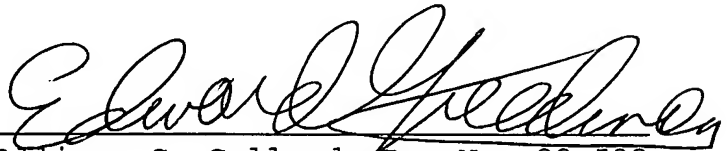


**REMARKS**

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-reference to the related applications has been inserted on page 1. The claims have been amended in order to remove the multiple dependency. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10, on the date indicated above, and is addressed to Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Maria Guastella